

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. CRUI/0021

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated May 6, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on August 6, 2005. Claims 1, 3-12, 15-25, 30, and 31 are currently pending in the application. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 31 as being unpatentable over *Baugh, et al.* (US 6,619,696) in view of *Mallis* (US 6,206,436). In response, Applicant has amended claim 1 and cancelled claim 31.

As amended, claim 1 includes similar limitations as claims 4 and 5, therefore no new matter has been added requiring an additional search. More specifically, claim 1 includes the limitation of a threaded portion having a first part having a first thread profile and a second part having a second thread profile, the first thread profile having a different shape than the second thread profile, wherein the thread profiles are configured such that the thread portions may be made up until the start of the thread profile on the trailing part of the male portion encounters the start of the different shaped thread profile on the trailing part of the female portion. As correctly indicated by the Examiner in section 2 of the office action, *Baugh, et al.* does not disclose a first thread profile that has a different shape than a second thread profile.

Mallis also does not disclose a threaded portion having a first thread profile with a different shape than a second thread profile. Rather, *Mallis* discloses a male portion with a thread profile configured only as dovetail-shaped threads and a female portion with a thread profile configured only as dovetail-shaped threads. (See abstract in *Mallis*) In other words, the thread profiles disclosed in *Mallis* have the same shape (i.e. dovetailed-shaped threads). Further, *Mallis* does not disclose a leading part of the female portion corresponding to the trailing part of the male portion and thread profiles that are configured such that the thread portions may be made up until the start of the thread profile on the trailing part of the male portion encounters the start of the different shaped thread profile on the trailing part of the female portion. In contrast, *Mallis*

Page 7

387997_1

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. CRUI/0021

discloses a two step thread profile, whereby the male portion has a first set of threads and a second set of threads and the female portion has a corresponding first set of threads and a corresponding second set of threads. In other words, the thread profile in *Mallis* is not continuous. For these reasons, *Baugh, et al.* and/or *Mallis* can not be used to render claim 1 obvious. Applicant, therefore, submits that claim 1 is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection. Additionally, claims 3, 6-12, and 15-25 depend from amended claim 1, and they are allowable for at least the same reasons as amended claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claim 30 is allowed. Applicant appreciates allowance of claim 30.

The Examiner indicated that claims 9-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As stated above, claims 9-12 depend from amended claim 1, and they are allowable for at least the same reasons as amended claim 1.

New Claim

New claim 32 is a combination of claim 1 and claim 31, therefore no new matter has been added that requires an additional search. New claim 32 includes limitations of a first part having a first thread profile and a second part having a second thread profile, the first thread profile having a different geometric shape than the second thread profile. As correctly indicated by the Examiner in section 2 of the office action, *Baugh, et al.* does not disclose a first thread profile that has a different shape than a second thread profile. *Mallis* also does not show a first thread profile having a different geometric shape than a second thread profile. In contrast, as discussed above, *Mallis* discloses a male portion with a thread profile configured only as dovetail-shaped threads and a female portion with a thread profile configured only as dovetail-shaped threads. (See abstract in *Mallis*) Therefore, Applicant believes new claim 32 is condition for allowance.

Page 8

367997_1

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. CRU/0021

Conclusion

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed.

Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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Page 9

367997_1